



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STORM REPAIR WORK AT NICKERSON AHEAD OF SCHEDULE
90% of Nickerson's Campground will be open
before Memorial Day Weekend

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announces today that tree removal and electrical repair work at Nickerson State Park in Brewster is ahead of schedule. DCR now plans to open 90% of the popular campground for camping beginning on May 22. DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington said, "I'm delighted that our park and forestry workers, with assistance from local volunteers, have been making great progress in the repair effort. The National Park Service and the Student Conservation Association program headquartered on Cape Cod have also offered to assist in the clean-up effort."

Several thousand trees were toppled and damaged by severe December storms that caused over \$1 million in damage at the park, which has one of the most heavily used campgrounds in the state. DCR originally expected to be able to open only 50% of the campground by late May, but the Department's Forestry and Fire Control Bureau workers from across the state have been working at the park for months and have made significant progress. Environmental Affairs Secretary Stephen Pritchard approved the spending of \$1 million in emergency state capital funding to speed up repairs at Nickerson.

After the series of severe storms in December, Nickerson's opening was delayed and a moratorium was placed on camping reservations. But today, DCR announced that on Monday, May 22, 2006, all sections of the campground, except Area 7, will open for camping. Area 7 will remain closed to reservations until further notice, serving as back-up campsites, but all existing reservations in this area will be honored. This means that at least 360 of the park's 400+ campsites will be open for camping over Memorial Day weekend. DCR is alerting campers that many campsites will not look the same as in years past, due to the large number of trees downed in the storms.

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Nickerson campground opening – page 2

DCR's campground reservation agency, ReserveAmerica, will reopen reservations for Nickerson State Park campsites on Wednesday, March 8 at 9:00 a.m. To make a reservation at Nickerson, or any one of the 28 DCR campgrounds throughout Massachusetts, call ReserveAmerica at 1-877-I-CAMP-MA or go online to www.reserveamerica.com.

Although Nickerson will not be open until May 22, other state park camping opportunities are available on Cape Cod from April through October. Scusset Beach State Reservation and Shawme-Crowell State Forest (both in Sandwich) are currently taking camping reservations. Scusset Beach offers picturesque coastal camping, while Shawme-Crowell provides a forest camping experience.

DCR wants to remind campers that the scheduled reopening of the campground on May 22 is dependent on the completion of necessary electrical and forestry work in the park, and as such, is subject to further delays in the event of severe inclement weather.

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NOTE: Photos of storm damage at Nickerson State Park are available upon request.